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INFORMATION ON USSR AGRICULTURE, 22 - 31 JANUARY 1953

[Comment: This report presents information, from Soviet news-
papers, on agriculture in the USSR as a whole and in nine union re-
publics. Progress and statistical data are given on the following:
crops, mechanization, land improvement, and rural electrification.

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USSR

In 1952, USSR agriculture received 131,000 tractors in terms of 15-horse-
power units, 98,000 combines and motor vehicles, and more than 2 million soil-
working, sowing, harvesting, and other agricultural machines.(1)

In 1952, 297 rural hydroelectric power stations and 912 steam electric
power stations went into operation in the USSR; 1,085 kolkhozes and 760 MTS,
LES (shelter belt stations), and repair enterprises were electrified. About
24,000 electric motors with a total capacity of almost 150,000 horsepower were
installed in kolkhozes and MTS.

Hydroelectric power stations to be put into operation in 1953 include the
following: Orlovskaya GES, 2,400 kilowatts, in Stavropol'skiy Kray; Rassypu-
khinskaya GES, 2,000 kilowatts, Ryazanskaya Oblast; Berdyuginskaya GES, 1,200
kilowatts, in Sverdlovskaya Oblast; Kabali GES, 1,350 kilowatts, and Duripshi
GES, 1,500 kilowatts, in Georgian SSR. In 1953, 1,660 additional kolkhozes are
to be electrified.(2)

Latvian SSR

In 1952, the average grain yield in sovkhoses of the republic was 17-18
quintals per hectare. In the fall of 1952, twice as much winter wheat was sown
in sovkhoses of the republic as in the fall of 1951. The area to be sown to
spring wheat in 1953 is to be 20 percent greater than that sown in the spring

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of 1952. Sowing of sunflowers is to increase sharply. More than two thirds of all spring crops are to sown on winter fallowed land, and mechanization of field work in sovkhozes of the republic is to reach 80 percent.(3)

During the last 3 years, the number of MTS in the republic more than doubled. During the last 2 years, Latvian agriculture received thousands of tractors and self-propelled combines, 2,300 tractor plows, 2,000 cultivators and stubble plows, 1,100 seeders, and much other equipment.(4)

Ukrainian SSR

During the last 2 years, the capacity of kolkhoz electric power stations in Odesskaya Oblast has doubled.(5)

Moldavian SSR

Construction of the Brynzenskaya GES on the Reuta River has been completed. Electric lights began to burn on 20 January in the village of Staryye Brunzeny.

About 150 kolkhozes and sovkhozes and all MTS in the republic have now been fully electrified.(6)

Georgian SSR

In 1952, kolkhozes of Tbilisskaya Oblast added 50,000 hectares of new land to the area devoted to grain crops. Grain deliveries to the state were considerably greater than in 1951.

During the last 2 years, 26 new MTS were created in the Georgian SSR.(1)

Construction of the Bechroyskaya and Kalaoskaya hydroelectric power stations in Zemo-Svanetskiy Rayon has been completed. They provide electric light for 11 kolkhozes.

The village of Arsha in Kazbegskiy Rayon, Tbilisskaya Oblast, receives power from the Kisturskaya Interkolkhoz Electric Power Station.(7)

RSFSR

In 1952, the sown area devoted to all agricultural crops in the republic increased by 1.3 million hectares as compared with 1951. The area devoted to wheat increased by 2.4 million hectares as compared with 1951.(8)

In 1952, MTS of Chitinskaya Oblast performed 82 percent of all field work in kolkhozes of the oblast.

Machines in MTS of the oblast have increased considerably. Two new MTS have been created in Aginskiy Buryat-Mongol'skiy Natsional'nyy Okrug and Khilokskiy Rayon.

The level of mechanization of agriculture in the Transbaykal region is rising. In 1952, the volume of tractor work increased by 23 percent and the volume of mechanized harvesting by 13 percent. An increase in the area devoted to food crops, grasses, and fodder root crops is planned.(4)

During the 4 years since 1948, when the Stalin transformation-of-nature plan was initiated, 440 ponds with a total area of 800 hectares have been constructed in kolkhozes of Ryazanskaya Oblast. All ponds in the oblast occupy an area of about 7,000 hectares. By the end of 1955, the area occupied by ponds is to have increased to 1,700 hectares.(9)

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Uzbek SSR

By 29 January, sowing of spiked grain crops was in progress throughout kolkhozes of the republic. The sowing campaign is moving into the northern portions of the republic.(4)

In 1953, the area devoted to orchards in the republic is being expanded by 3,000 hectares, that to vineyards by 870 hectares, and that to figs and pomegranates by 180 hectares. Kolkhozes have been supplied with planting material by 29 state and kolkhoz nurseries.

In contrast to other years, kolkhozes of the republic are planting orchards on tracts of 15-20 hectares.(1)

According to preliminary data, the 1950 - 1952 plan for conversion to the new system of irrigation was fulfilled only 62 percent in the republic.(10)

Turkmen

During the period 1946 - 1951, the area sown to cotton in the republic increased by 30 percent and yield rose by 68 percent.

According to preliminary data, the 1950 - 1952 plan for conversion to the new system of irrigation was fulfilled only 52.2 percent.(10)

Tadzhik SSR

As of 21 January, kolkhozes of the republic had sown spring crops on an area six times as great as had been sown by the same date in 1952. Many kolkhozes are sowing wheat and barley by the close-row and crisscross methods; the area to be sown by these methods in 1953 will be twice as great as in 1952.(6)

Kolkhozes and sovkhoses in many areas of the republic were sowing early spiked grain crops by 29 January. Tens of thousands of hectares of wheat and barley had already been sown.(11)

Kolkhozes of northern Tadzhikistan had begun sowing spring crops by 29 January, which was 2 weeks earlier than in 1951. In 1953, the area devoted to spring grain crops in Leninabadskaya Oblast is being increased by 17,500 hectares.(4)

According to preliminary data, the 1950 - 1952 plan for conversion to the new system of irrigation was fulfilled only 71.1 percent in the republic.(10)

Kirgiz SSR

In Frunzenskaya Oblast, there were 19 kolkhozes which grew cotton in 1949, 72 in 1950, 53 in 1951, and 35 in 1952.

In 1952, work directed toward conversion to the new system of irrigation was carried out on an area of only 30,800 hectares as compared with 59,900 hectares in 1951.(10)

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1. Sotsialisticheskoye Zemledeliye, 27 Jan 53
2. Ibid., 24 Jan 53
3. Sovkhoznyaya Gazeta, 24 Jan 53
4. Sotsialisticheskoye Zemledeliye, 30 Jan 53
5. Pravda, 25 Jan 53
6. Sotsialisticheskoye Zemledeliye, 22 Jan 53
7. Ibid., 31 Jan 53
8. Sovkhoznyaya Gazeta, 31 Jan 53
9. Sotsialisticheskoye Zemledeliye, 23 Jan 53
10. Sovetskoye Khlopkovodstvo, 31 Jan 53
11. Pravda, 29 Jan 53

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